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## Bosnia-Herzegovina

### Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

### Export Certificates Report

2006

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**Report Highlights:**

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) requires various certificates for imported food products. However, there are no required formats that exporters are required to use, except for phytosanitary certificates that should be in accordance to the recommendations of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Only the veterinary certificate needs to contain certain statements set by the State Veterinary Office (SVA). The SVA is also responsible for verifying specific requirements for importing live animals and products of animal origin. This report provides information on Bosnia and Herzegovina export certificate requirements for food and agricultural products.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
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## Executive Summary

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) requires various certificates for imported food products. The official authorities in the exporting country are generally responsible for issuing health certificates (e.g. FDA, APHIS, FSIS etc.) while quality certificates are often issued by producers/exporters.

There are no required forms or formats that exporters are required to use, except for phytosanitary certificates that should be in accordance to the recommendations of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Generally speaking, there are no specific certifications required on health and quality certificates beyond the standard certifications used in international trade. Only the veterinary certificate needs to contain certain statements set by the State Veterinary Office (SVA). The SVA is also responsible for verifying the specific requirements for importing live animals and products of animal origin, and the veterinary certificate must attest that those requirements have been met. Those requirements are not available in English, but exporters can contact our FAS office in Sarajevo for assistance in translating the certificates.

Prior import approvals are required for live animals, fresh, chilled, and frozen meat, veterinary medicines, eggs for reproduction, semen and inseminated egg cells, seeds, planting materials, and pesticides.

Because the BiH accepts all kinds of export certificates, digital copies are not provided in order to not mislead the U.S. exporters. However, detailed outlines of acceptable certificates are provided.

For more information on overall import regulations and standards please refer to FAIRS Report #BK 5007 that can be downloaded from [Attaché Reports](#)

**SECTION I. LIST OF EXPORT CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND THE PRODUCTS THEY COVER**

<b>Product(s)</b>	<b>Title of Certificate</b>	<b>Attestation Required on Certificate</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Requesting Ministry</b>
All Food Products	Health Certificate/Evidence of Sanitary Correctness	The food product is safe for human consumption	To certify food hygiene/safety	The Ministry of Health of the Federation of BiH and the Ministry of Health of the Republika Srpska
All Food Products	Certificate/Evidence of Quality	Evidence of quality such as product composition, specification etc.	To certify food quality	The Ministry of Trade of the Federation of BiH and the Ministry of Trade of the Republika Srpska
All Live Animals and Animal Products	Veterinary Certificate	Depends on the specific requirements set by the State Veterinary Office	To certify that products are safe for animal and public health	The State Veterinary Office
All Plants and Plant Products	Phytosanitary Certificate	To certify that the product has been inspected according to appropriate procedures, considered to be free from quarantine pests and considered to conform with the current phytosanitary regulations of the importing country.	To certify that products are safe for plant and public health	The Ministry of Agriculture of the Federation of BiH and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republika Srpska

## SECTION II. PURPOSE OF EXPORT CERTIFICATES

**The health certificate/evidence of sanitary correctness** attests to a product's safety for human consumption. The requiring Ministries are the Federation Ministry of Health and the Republika Srpska Ministry of Health, or more precisely their Sanitary Inspection Departments.

**The certificate/evidence of quality** attests to the product's quality and to confirm that the product meets certain quality standards. The requesting authorities are the Entities Ministries of Trade, or more precisely their Market Inspection Departments.

**The veterinary certificate** is required for live animals, semen, embryo and egg cells, processed animal products, raw materials for processing, veterinary medicines and accessories, diagnostic kits and materials, animal feed and waste, and other products that might be carriers of animal disease and put animal and human health at risk. The certificate verifies the product's safety for animal and public health. The requesting authority is the State Veterinary Office of BiH.

**The phytosanitary certificate** certifies the health of all plants and plant products. The requesting authorities are the two Entities' Ministries of Agriculture (Phytosanitary Departments).

## SECTION III: SPECIFIC CERTIFICATIONS REQUIRED ON THE EXPORT CERTIFICATE

**The certificate/evidence of sanitary correctness** – there are no specific certifications required by the authorities, except that the product is fit for human consumption and meets the exporting country's safety requirements. There is no specific format requested, but it should be an original certificate signed by the official authority of the exporting country (e.g. FDA) and translated into Bosnian.

**The certificate/evidence of quality** - There are no specific certifications required by the authorities except for the standard quality certification used in international trade. However, the market inspection has the authority to sample and test imported products on a random basis, and if the product's quality does not meet the domestic standards, it will not be cleared and allowed to enter the market.

**The veterinary certificate** – The veterinary certificate should clearly identify the imported product, the means and route of transportation, the packaging, consignee and consignor, as well as insure clear epizootic/disease status of the country, state, premise, and the amount of the imported item. The State Veterinary Office (SVA) is responsible for the specific requirements for importing live animals and products of animal origin, and the veterinary certificate must attest that those requirements have been met; those requirements are not available in English, but the FAS office in Sarajevo can assist exporters with obtaining the certificates and translating them into English). No specific format is requested, but the certificate must be an original, issued by the exporting country's official authorities.

**The phytosanitary certificate** should be in accordance to International Plant Protection Convention recommendations. The certificate should contain the name and the address of the exporter, declared name and address of consignee, origin, means of conveyance, point of entry, packaging, name of produce, botanical name of plants, quantity, any treatments conducted such as disinfestations or disinfection treatments and should state that the product has been inspected according to appropriate procedures, considered to be free from quarantine pests and considered to conform with the current phytosanitary regulation of the importing country.

**SECTION IV: GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE LEGAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

An original document or a certified copy for a multiple shipment must accompany each shipment at the point of entry for each mode of transport, translated into the Bosnian language.

Imported products will be cleared of customs duties only upon presentation of all required certificates.

Derogation of export certificates will occur if products contain biotech products or if the products' quality does not meet local standards.

**SECTION V: OTHER CERTIFICATION/ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS**

Prior import approvals issued by the BiH State Veterinary Office (SVA) are required for live animals, fresh, chilled and frozen meat, veterinary medicines, eggs for reproduction, semen and inseminated egg cells. To import animals for reproduction, additional certificates/evidence regarding origin, production and reproductive value is required. Importers of semen should provide progeny test results.

Contact Information:

State Veterinary Office

Radiceva 8/II

7100 Sarajevo

Contact person: Darko Cobanov

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Tel. +387 33 258 840

Fax +387 33 265 620

E-mail: [info@vet.gov.ba](mailto:info@vet.gov.ba)

<http://www.vet.gov.ba/>

For seeds, planting materials, and pesticides the Entities' Agricultural Ministries provide prior approvals/technical opinions based on presented health and quality certificates, and the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations issues final import licenses. Forms are available at the Ministries.

Contact Information:

**Federation Ministry of Agriculture, Water Management and Forestry**

Phytosanitary Department

Titova 15

71 000 Sarajevo

Contact person: Selma Sose

Tel. +387 33 442 761

Fax: +387 33 206 638

<http://www.fbihvlada.gov.ba/engleski/index.html>

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